

**PCT/US2004/20805**

**AMENDED CLAIMS**

**[Received by the International Bureau on 07 April 2005 ( 07.04.2005):  
original claim 1 replaced by amended claims 1-21]**

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original claim 1 replaced by amended claims 1-21]**

1. A method of determining a pathway between a source connection point and a target connection point, such method implemented in a computer system having at least one database comprising data defining entities as connection points, the method comprising:

- A. defining the source connection point as a list of contacts;
- B. defining the target connection point;
- C. defining a set of intermediate connection points as a series of intermediate contacts that collectively define the pathway from the source connection point to the target connection point, as a function of predetermined relationships among a superset of contacts comprising the intermediate contacts.

2. A method of determining at least one pathway of one or more connections between at least one starting point and at least one endpoint, wherein one or more steps of the method are carried out by at least one computer system including or having access to at least one database, the method comprising the steps:

- A. providing at least one host database comprising identification data for each party in a plurality of parties, wherein for each party said identification data represents relationships to one or more other party;
- B. defining a starting point as a list of at least one contact party;
- C. defining an endpoint as a list of at least one endpoint party;
- D. determining each pathway identifying a series of intermediate parties taken from the parties represented in the at least one host database, wherein each intermediate party identity includes:
  - i. a first set of identification data in common with a set of identification data of a contact party from the starting point or of a prior intermediate party; and
  - ii. a second set of identification data in common with a set of identification data of a subsequent intermediate party or of the endpoint.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein the list of at least one contact party is a list comprising a plurality of contact parties.
4. The method of claim 2 wherein the list of at least one endpoint party is a list comprising a plurality of contact parties.
5. The method of claim 2 wherein the list of at least one contact party is taken from a computer database of addresses.
6. The method of claim 2 wherein the identification data comprises an identification of the party.
7. The method of claim 2 wherein step A comprises deriving information from public domain sources including data representing people and entities.
8. The method of claim 7 wherein deriving information comprises parsing information from public domain sources.
9. The method of claim 7 wherein the public domain sources include publicly accessible web sites, publications and databases.
10. The method of claim 2, further comprising, prior to step D defining a maximum number of intermediate parties to comprise each of the at least one pathways.
11. The method of claim 2, further comprising step:
  - E. displaying at least one pathway including displaying the at least one contact party, one or more intermediate parties and the at least one endpoint party.
12. A system for determining at least one pathway of one or more connections between at least one starting point and at least one endpoint, wherein the system

comprises at least one computer system including or having access to at least one database, the system further comprising:

- A. means for providing at least one host database comprising identification data for each party in a plurality of parties, wherein for each party said identification data represents relationships to one or more other party;
- B. means for defining a starting point as a list of at least one contact party;
- C. means for defining an endpoint as a list of at least one endpoint party;
- D. means for determining each pathway identifying a series of intermediate parties taken from the parties represented in the at least one host database, wherein each intermediate party identity includes:
  - i. a first set of identification data in common with a set of identification data of a contact party from the starting point or of a prior intermediate party; and
  - ii. a second set of identification data in common with a set of identification data of a subsequent intermediate party or of the endpoint.

13. The system of claim 12 wherein the list of at least one contact party is a list comprising a plurality of contact parties.

14. The system of claim 12 wherein the list of at least one endpoint party is a list comprising a plurality of contact parties.

15. The system of claim 12 wherein the list of at least one contact party is taken from a computer database of addresses.

16. The system of claim 12 wherein the identification data comprises an identification of the party.

17. The system of claim 12 wherein means for providing at least one host database includes means for deriving information from public domain sources including data representing people and entities.

18. The system of claim 17 wherein the means for deriving information comprises means for parsing information from public domain sources.
19. The system of claim 17 wherein the public domain sources include publicly accessible web sites, publications and databases.
20. The system of claim 12, further comprising means for defining a maximum number of intermediate parties to comprise each of the at least one pathways.
21. The system of claim 12, further comprising:
- E. means for displaying at least one pathway, including means for displaying the at least one contact party, one or more intermediate parties and the at least one endpoint party.